

Jackie Lacey
District Attorney
<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Greg Risling, Assistant Chief

Media Relations Division

213-257-2000

GRisling@da.lacounty.gov

Twitter: @LADAOoffice

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Father Charged With Murdering Sons, Trying to Kill Wife by Driving Off San Pedro Pier

A man was charged today with capital murder for killing his two autistic sons who died when the car he was driving plunged off a berth at the Port of Los Angeles four years ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Ali Elmezayen (dob 9/17/74) was charged in case NA112383 with two counts of murder and one count of attempted murder with the special circumstance allegations of multiple murders and the murders were carried out for financial gain.

The defendant is currently in federal custody on insurance fraud charges. Once that case is completed, Elmezayen will be tried on the murder charges.

Deputy District Attorney Cynthia Barnes of the Major Crimes Division is prosecuting the case.

On April 9, 2015, the defendant was driving a vehicle with his wife and two sons in San Pedro. The car went off the berth and into the water, the prosecutor said.

The couple's sons, 13-year-old Elhassan and 8-year-old Abdelkrim, drowned. The defendant and his wife managed to escape the submerged car.

A case involving the defendant was presented to the District Attorney's Office and was declined in December 2017. Further investigation done by the Los Angeles Police Department's Harbor and Robbery-Homicide divisions and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office led to the murder and attempted murder charges against the defendant.

If convicted as charged, Elmezayen faces a possible maximum sentence of life in state prison without the possibility of parole or death. A decision on whether to seek the death penalty will be made at a later date.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.